

# Water Conservation BMPs: Water Waste Prohibition



RWSPG Meeting May 27, 2008

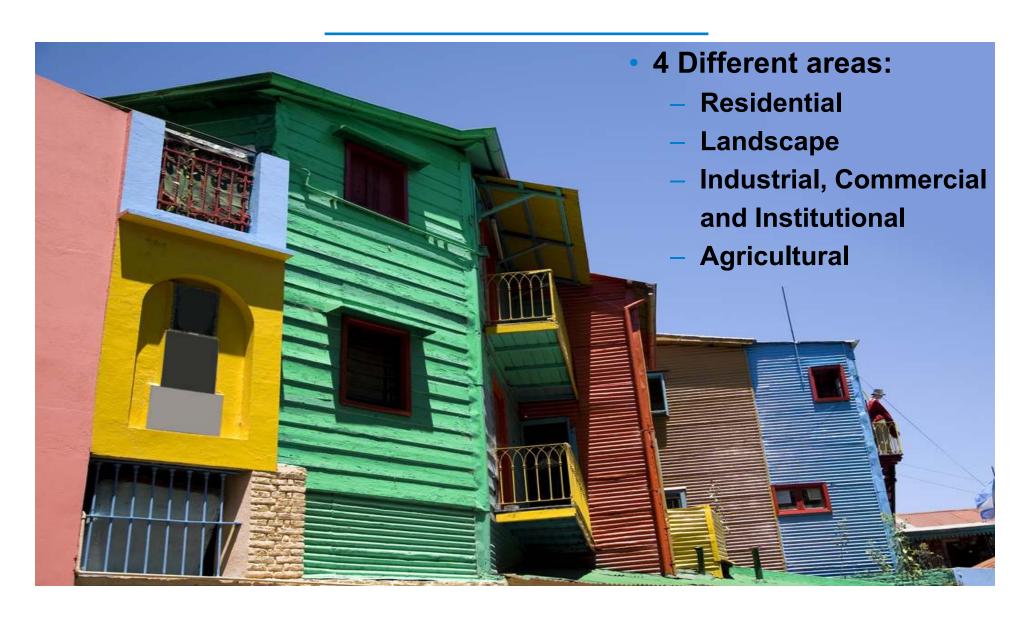


## **Presentation Overview**

- Definition
- Most Common Water Waste Topics
- Ordinances
- Benefits/Costs
- Examples
- Sample Recommendation Statements



## **Definitions**



# Water Waste Prohibition **Definitions**

Waste Water prohibition measures are.....

Enforceable actions and measures that prohibit specific wasteful activities.





# Water Waste Prohibition **Definitions**

- 2 ways...
  - Specific actions
    - CUWCC
  - Specific outcome
    - Southern Nevada Water Authority
      - Boulder City



# **Most Common Prohibition Topics**

- Gutter flushing
- Single pass cooling systems in new connections
- Non-recirculating systems in new car washes and commercial laundry systems
- Non-recycling decorative water fountains
- Restricted use of water softeners
- Landscaping restrictions





## **Ordinances**

- Used to implement and enforce
- 1st time= warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc= fine or stop in service
- Varies greatly with location





# No Authority.....make a Policy!

- East Medina County Special Utility District
- Set Policy for water waste prohibition-adapted by Board of Directors
- Community relationship fosters compliance



# **Exceptions and Combinations**

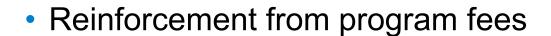
## **Landscaping and Water Waste**

- Water waste ordinances
- Landscaping restriction ordinances
  - Day specific watering schedule
  - Turf Limitations
  - Ban on sprinkler irrigation for narrow turf strips
- Varies widely…
- Cultural notion for "attractive and functional landscape"



## Costs

- Development and adoption of an ordinance and enforcement structure
- Ongoing administration/staff
  - Maintenance of program
  - Enforcement of program





## **Benefits**



- Not wasting water...
- Setting Limits and Definitions
- Reduced Stormwater runoff
- Reduced pollution from runoff
- Save energy from pumping and treating
- Save chemicals from treating more water
- Instill sense of conservation in customers



## El Paso



### **PROHIBITS**:

- Washing a vehicle without a positive shut-off nozzle
- Irrigation runoff to run into the street
- Outdoor watering on other than the assigned days.
  - Watering on the wrong day nets the violator a \$137 fine plus court costs.
  - Citizens caught watering at the wrong time or allowing water to run into the right-of-way are fined \$112 fine plus court costs.
- Failure to repair leaks is a \$245 fine.



# **Austin, Texas**

- Year Round
- Prohibit (Class C misdemeanor)
  - Failing to repair leaks
  - Irrigation water heads
  - Irrigation run-off
- Educational materials online
- Water Waste Reporting
  - Hotline
  - Website reporting form



## **CUWCC**

 By 2006, 181 agencies reported having water waste prohibition in some form.

### **Specifically:**

- 77%-Gutter Flooding
- 38%-Single pass car washes
- 35%-Single pass cooling
- 30%-Single pass laundry
- 54%-Single pass fountains
- 31%-Other Prohibitions





# Sioux Falls, South Dakota

- Water Waste is prohibited at all times
  - Allowing water to run into a gutter, ditch, or drain, or failing to repair a controllable leak is considered water waste.
- Year round lawn watering schedule
- 4 Stages depending on height of river
- Washing vehicles at a residence



## **Summary**

- Water waste can be defined in many ways
  - Combination
- Can include landscaping restrictions as well
- Usually enforced through ordinances
- Found all through the United States
- Staff and enforcement costs
- Benefits





# Sample Recommendation Statement



# Sample Recommendation Statement

County and City implementation and enforcement of a water waste prohibition ordinance that includes but is not limited to...

- Single pass cooling systems in new connections
- Gutter Flushing
- Non-recirculating systems in new car washes and commercial laundry systems
- Non-recycling decorative water fountains
- Restricted use of water softeners
- Landscaping restrictions



## Sample Recommendation Statement

Water waste prohibition ordinances compliment existing or serve as a beginning to landscaping restrictions.



